



Stormrider (Rigante)

By David Gemmell

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One glorious spark, one moment of Rigante rebellion has ignited a revolution and forged a legend. In the mountains of the north, the outlaw leader known as Ravenheart waits, knowing the forces of the blackhearted Moidart will come, led by the brutal ruler's only son, Stormrider. Unaware that the fate of the world lies in their hands, sworn enemies Ravenheart and Stormrider will be forced to unite—and face the vengeance of an ancient evil.

For immense armies of darkness are advancing on the highlanders, and it seems as if nothing will stop them. They crush their victims with ease, until only a few thousand men stand before them, with no help in sight. But these are not ordinary men they face. They are clansmen, and more than that, they are Rigante. . . .

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Stormrider (Rigante) By David Gemmell Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Mythic characters painted with broad strokes populate this fourth title in British bestseller Gemmell's Rigante series (after 2001's *Ravenheart*), set in a fantasy world resembling medieval Scotland. *Stormrider* is the Rigante soul name for Gaise Macon, a young nobleman. Unloved from birth but determined to show his father his worth, Gaise becomes a general in the struggle against the king's enemies. What Gaise doesn't know is that he's waging war against a god who wants to rid the world of humans. Once Gaise realizes the depths of the enemy's wickedness, he redoubles his efforts to win. Unfortunately, the death of a woman he loves results in a disturbing personality change in Gaise. From this point on, the battle is fought on two levels the physical battle between armies and the internal battle of good vs. evil. The fate of the world and its people hangs on whether Gaise is true to his humanity or not. Gemmell fans will applaud his antiwar and pro-ecology subtext while not minding his tendency to stint on character development and motivation. As in myth, characters are largely defined by attributes that set them above others, such as strength, courage and hardiness. On the other hand, more than superficial attention to the hero's thoughts and feelings might have added more immediacy to Gaise's perils. Of course, for those mostly male readers who value action over sentiment the strong story line is enough to carry them along. This solid entry should do as well as previous books in the series.

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From School Library Journal

Adult/High School-A sequel to *Ravenheart* that stands on its own. It tells the story of Gaise Macon, a young and chivalrous general; his father the Moidart, a cold and calculating feudal lord; and the Rigante, a group oppressed by the Moidart, who were featured in Gemmell's *The Sword in the Storm* and *Midnight Falcon* (all Del Rey, 2001). Although Gaise, his father, and the Rigante are all natural enemies, they band together to fight the trapped soul of an ancient and destructive god who acts primarily through an agent who is clairvoyant and in charge of a vast army. Gaise, the *Stormrider*, becomes nearly as evil as that which they are battling, even as his father starts to show more humanity. Gaise's struggles with his internal demons are the book's focus, and his ultimate redemption involves several interesting twists. Characterizations are strong, and even the minor individuals seem well motivated, with actions following logically from personality. Minor characters who admire but then become disappointed with the general tell his story from an omniscient third-person point of view. Gemmell presents moral choices with a rich complexity as conflicting circumstances and values lead even the "good" characters to follow different and often contrary paths. The battle scenes are intense, although the violence is always integral to the plot and character development. This old-fashioned tale of courage and action is told in a modern and engaging style that should appeal to teens.

Paul Brink, Fairfax County Public Library System, VA

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From [Booklist](#)

The Rigante saga takes place in a fantasy universe strongly resembling seventeenth-century England, including a civil war in which both sides wield arsenals of swords, sorcery, and gunpowder weapons. The Varlish rulers are divided, however, into factions loyal, respectively, to the King and to the Knights of Sacrifice and Redeemers, whose leader, Winter Kay, aspires to godhood. Kay takes the first step toward his goal by killing the king and using his blood in a sacrifice to invoke the horned man. Opposing Kay are the Rigante, a people strongly reminiscent of the Scots, and Gaise Macon, son of the dark nobleman called the

Moidart. Eventually the Moidart and his son must join forces against Kay's almost literally diabolical plans, and Gaise Macon indeed takes up the sword and the name of Stormrider to achieve final victory. Gemmell's fantasy blazes no new trails, but it is never less than well done, especially in its mingling of gunpowder and magic and employment of elements of Celtic mythology in a manner that preserves much of their original power and beauty. Virtually all fantasy fans will enjoy it, so make sure its predecessors--*The Sword in the Storm* (1998), *Midnight Falcon* (1999), and *Ravenheart* (2001)--are on hand for readers, particularly Celtopaniacs, who want to know What Went Before. The fourth Rigante volume seems to be getting more publicity than the others, as it richly deserves. *Roland Green*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edward Shaw:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? May be reading a book may be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the book untitled Stormrider (Rigante) can be good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Rosemarie Sanders:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray anyone, why because this Stormrider (Rigante) e-book written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book which might be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written in good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still hesitation Stormrider (Rigante) as good book not simply by the cover but also through the content. This is one reserve that can break don't determine book by its cover, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

Angela Rodriguez:

Is it you who having spare time in that case spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Stormrider (Rigante) can be the answer, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are consequently out of date, spending your time by reading in this fresh era is common not a geek activity. So what these publications have than the others?

Bonnie Howe:

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